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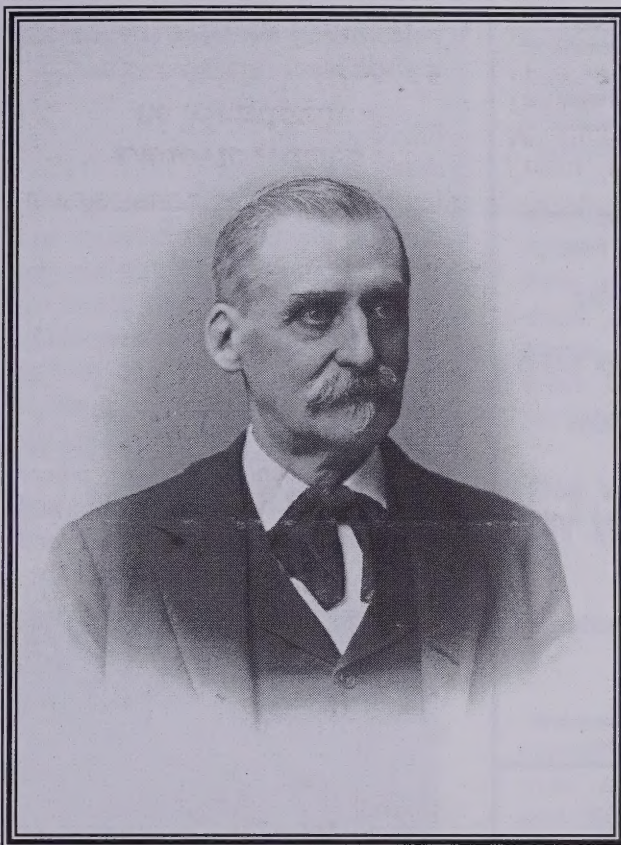
OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

November 2011

## COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speakers for the program will be Emily de Montluzin and Dr. Lorraine de Montluzin, who will discuss their book, *Dearest Arlett*. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call **by noon on Wednesday, November 16**, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.



Ludovic Adrien  
de Montluzin  
(12/12/1827—  
12/26/1909),  
patriarch of the  
de Montluzin family of  
Bay St. Louis

**Ludovic Adrien  
de Montluzin  
[Louis Adrien Viallier de  
Montluzin du Sauzay]  
12/12/1827—12/26/1909**

Prepared by  
Emily Hosmer  
de Montluzin  
and  
Emily Lorraine  
de Montluzin

Louis [Ludovic] Adrien de Montluzin was born in Luneville in the province of Lorraine in eastern

France, the only child of Louis de Montluzin, a captain in the Second Lancers and a Knight of the Order of St. Louis and of the Legion of Honor. His mother, Rose Tessier de Montluzin, died before his first birthday, and he grew up the son of a soldier, in awe of his father's military exploits in Napoleon's campaigns in Spain, Poland, Austria, and Russia and in the battle of Waterloo. Despite his many generations of military ancestors, he was drawn to the scholarly life. After taking a law degree at the University of Paris, he became a journalist in the liberal wing of the Paris press. His friends included Lamartine, Victor Hugo,





THE

**HISTORIAN**

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor  
Pat Fuchs, PublisherPublished monthly by the  
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Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE  
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY  
10:00AM — 3:00PM  
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

Alfred de Musset, and Alexandre Dumas, pere and fils [father & son], and for a time he worked as secretary to the elder Dumas, helping do research for his historical novels. With Hugo, he participated in the ill-fated Paris uprising against Louis Napoleon in 1851, and, sickened by the prospects for freedom under Louis Napoleon's (now Napoleon III's) dictatorship, he chose to make a new life in America.

Accompanied by his son Ferdinand, he traveled by sailing vessel to Louisiana in 1854, expecting a wilderness and bringing with him shovels, rakes, hoes, axes, and saws necessary for clearing the land. To his surprise he found instead the prosperous, cosmopolitan New Orleans of the mid-1850's. He quickly accepted a position teaching chemistry at Jefferson College in Convent, Louisiana, where he was joined by his wife Reine and their young children Alfred and Jeanne. He divided his time be-

tween his professorial duties and his avocation of literature, writing newspaper articles, poetry, and an historical novel based on the career of his father. During the Civil War he organized a number of his émi-gré friends into the French Company of St. James Parish, serving as its captain-commander, commissioned by governor Moore to patrol the Mississippi River from Donaldsonville to New Orleans. After the Civil War he established his own lycee [high school], the Ecole Classique et Commerciale, at 122 Conti Street in New Orleans, where he was headmaster until his retirement, following a heart attack, to Bay St. Louis in 1874.

In August 1878 he established a drugstore (the fifth in Mississippi), partly to indulge his interest in chemistry and partly to fill the community's need for medicine, buying the contents of an apothecary shop on Apothecary Street (later State Street) for \$75.00. He



The de Montluzin family pose on the steps of their home at 208 N. Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis. (Top: Reine Helluy de Montluzin; middle: unidentified man, Dr. Louis Georges Roger de Montluzin\*, Ludovic de Montluzin; bottom: Rene de Montluzin, Sr.\*, Cleo Benedic; Corinne de Montluzin Benedic\*, A. M. Benedic (behind his wife Corinne)

\*three of the six children of Ludovic and Reine de Montluzin





The "new" De Montluzin Drugs was built at 113 S. Beach Blvd. by Ludovic de Montluzin to replace the one he had lost in an 1897 fire.

then moved into a new shop on Main Street (on a lot adjacent to the present Hancock Bank) and shortly afterwards built a drugstore on North Beach Boulevard. That store burned in 1897, but he rebuilt immediately, the new building standing until it was destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969. Never forgetting the country of his birth, he raised funds for French relief during the Franco-Prussian War, served as a consular agent for France, and was awarded *Palmes Academiques* by the French Department of Public Instruction for his service to teaching. A good citizen, he was one of the nineteen founders of the Hancock Bank.

He was a gentle, scholarly man, of philosophical bent and emotional temperament. He died in his home at 208 North Beach Boulevard on December 26, 1909, survived by five of his children (Alfred, Jeanne, Roger, Rene, and

Corinne) and by Reine, his wife of sixty-two years. [Editor's note: Ludovic's eldest son, Ferdinand who had accompanied him to America from France, contracted malaria while working in Panama on the Canal and died there prior to his father's death.]

**Dearest Arlett:  
Everyday Life in Postwar  
America and France,  
1945—1955, as Recorded  
in the Letters of Two  
Reunited Families**

By  
Emily Hosmer de Montluzin  
with  
Emily Lorraine de Montluzin

The letters written by  
Emily de Montluzin to her young

French cousin Arlette during the first decade after World War II showcase the experiences of two ordinary families, one American and one French, as their countries were adjusting to the challenges, stresses, and social changes of a postwar world.

They are a testament to the close bond that developed between the two sets of cousins an ocean apart and to the extraordinary friendship that sprang up between Emily and Arlette, the family "scribes."

When Emily's home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, Arlette knew that there was one thing she could do to help: She could return Emily's letters and photos, carefully saved for sixty years. In that way, she could restore her [cousin's] past.

## Did You Know This about Hancock County?

By  
Scott Bagley

Did you know that Hancock County's long published *Sea Coast Echo* at one time made its home directly on Beach Boulevard in Bay St. Louis in a building that survives today in spite of several large hurricanes? At the time of its first edition, January 8, 1892, the *Echo* was housed in a small frame structure over the water built in the 1880's for an attorney by the name of Ben Lane Posey. Supported by tall pilings, the structure was not very stable, and heavy vibrations precluded the printing presses from working satisfactorily.

As the *Echo* added more and larger equipment, it soon became apparent that its first building was not large enough...or safe enough for that matter. Accordingly, after looking for another site





Built in 1903, the Echo Building at 200 N. Beach Blvd. has housed many businesses since its initial use as newspaper offices for the *Sea Coast Echo*.

for over a year, a lot on the corner of what was then called Apothecary and Front Streets (now State Street and North Beach Boulevard) was purchased on November 3, 1902, for \$1,115. The property had been the location of the summer home of C. C. Hartwell, a New Orleans plumbing contractor. The house had burned, and Mr. Hartwell did not plan to rebuild.

John Henry, a retired New Orleans architect living in Bay St. Louis, was hired to design the *Echo's* new building. Mr. Henry, who had designed the Godcheaux building on Canal Street and many of the breweries in New Orleans, was asked to design "a building to house a newspaper and job printing plant, affording plenty of light and air, and a structure that [would] serve as an office building and also, on the corner, a place for business." Gaston G. Gardebled was hired to construct the building, which was completed in 1903. Brick for the building came from Slidell, Louisiana, by way of the Spotorno schooner, *Garibaldi*;

lumber came from the Edwards lumber mill near Bay St. Louis; and slate roofing was installed by Hellbach Bros. of Waveland. Brick work was done by S. P. Driver, tinwork by Will J. Gallup, electrical work by Delphine Desdunes, and painting by Archie Letten.

At the time of the building's completion, the *Echo* (for which the building is named and which name appears at its top) occupied the entire ground floor while the second floor housed the Cumberland Telephone Company. Since that time the building has hosted a number of tenants and weathered more than its share of storms. (The *Echo*, moved from this original location in 1956 into the Woodmen of the World building on Second Street [Century Hall] before moving to its present location on Court Street in 1979.) Following extensive repair and refurbishment after Hurricane Katrina, this Beach Boulevard landmark has recently turned a new page in its history by reopening as a North

Beach restaurant and bar overlooking the water.

This building is registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### SOURCE:

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Corp., 1999.



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## The Eighteenth Annual Cemetery Tour

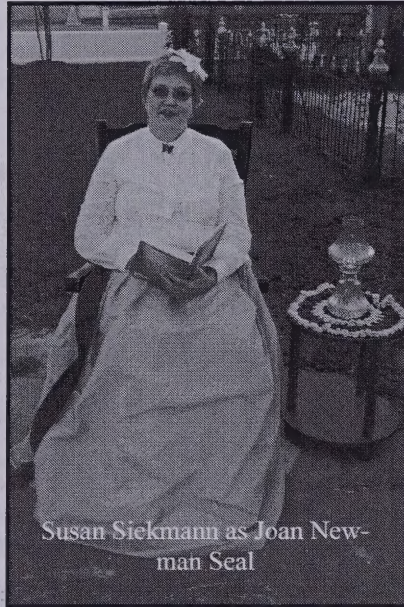
The Eighteenth Annual Cemetery Tour sponsored by the Hancock County Historical Society was held at Cedar Rest Cemetery on October 31, 2011. Jackie Allain, president of the Historical Society, dedicated many long hours to planning this year's event. Because of her research three new characters have been added to the tour: Benjamin Deblieux, Sr., Eaton J. Bowers, A. G. Pieri, and Elizabeth Ann Yenni. With the help and dedication of many volunteers and actors, this year's tour was a sensational success. Tour guides led visitors through the cemetery stopping along the way for past citizens to tell highlights of their lives.

The apparition of **Kate Lobrano** was the first character to greet guests. She owned the house which is now the home of the Hancock County Historical Society and with her husband maintained residences in Pointe a la Hache, LA, and Bay St. Louis.



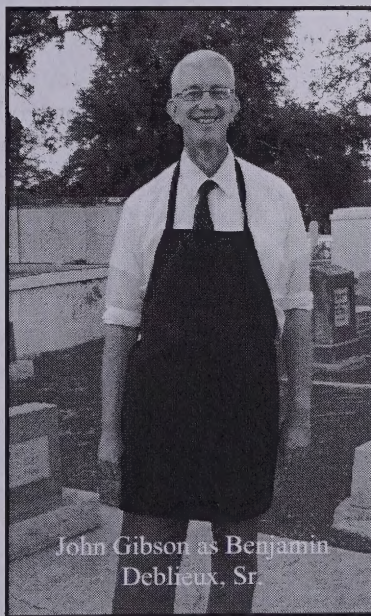
Katy Gift as Kate Lobrano

The ethereal appearance of **Joan Newman Seal** explained that she had been a woman of means. She was a landowner who donated the south section of Cedar Rest Cemetery to the city of Bay St. Louis.



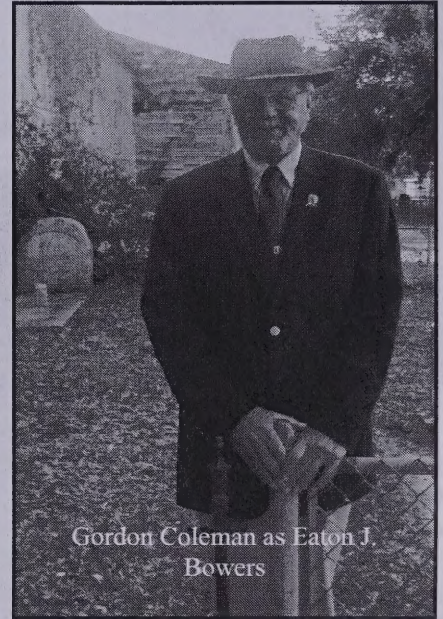
Susan Siekmann as Joan Newman Seal

Further along the pathway, the spirit of **Benjamin Deblieux, Sr.**, appeared. He was an old and prominent citizen of Bay St. Louis, who was living in the Jackson House at the time of his death.



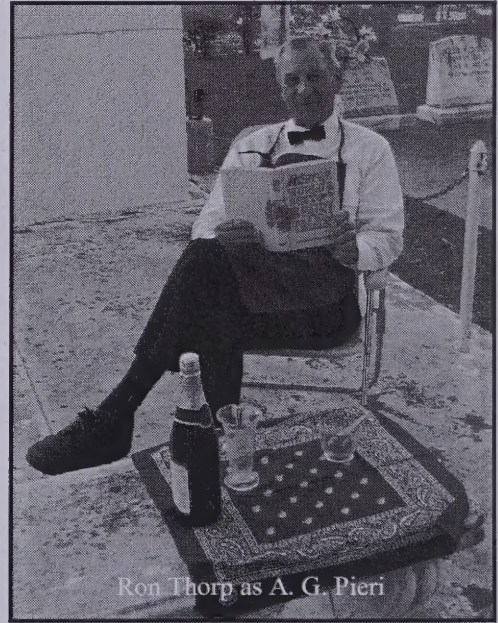
John Gibson as Benjamin Deblieux, Sr.

The next spiritual presence to appear was that of **Eaton J. Bowers**. He was elected to Congress in 1904. Considered a brilliant and capable man, he represented the Sixth Congressional District of Mississippi.



Gordon Coleman as Eaton J. Bowers

The incorporeal being of **A. G. Pieri** materialized next to his gravesite. Elected Mayor of Bay St. Louis in 1897, Pieri was also a successful businessman.



Ron Thorp as A. G. Pieri





Ava Sevin as Corine Carco

Moving further along the path, guests encountered the apparition of **Corine Carco**. She related colorful stories of the Carco family.

Nearing the end of the tour, the phantasm of **Charles Sanger** appeared. A German immigrant, he settled in Bay Saint Louis, became a building contractor, and is responsi-



Joan Coleman as Elizabeth Ann Yenni

ble for building many historic structures in Hancock County.

Bringing the tour to an end, the specter of **Elizabeth Ann Yenni** arose. She was the very stylish wife

of W. H. Yenni, a successful merchant of fancy goods, shoes, and clothing in Bay St. Louis.

As the last of the visitors left the cemetery and the last of the candles were extinguished, the spirits of those past citizens who had appeared returned to their resting places until their next embodiment on All Hallow's Eve.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the Eighteenth Annual Cemetery Tour—the actors, guides, set—up crew, house crew, and people who donated treats.

*Jackie Allain,*  
President of the  
Hancock County



William Slatterfield as Charles Sanger

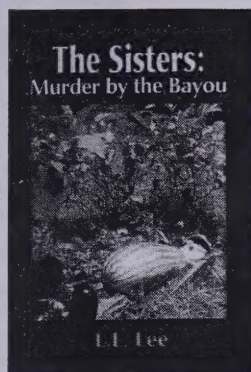


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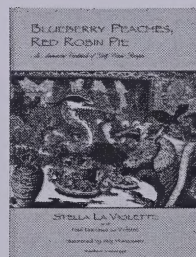
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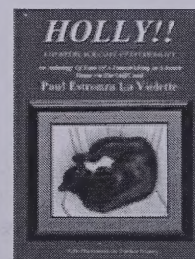
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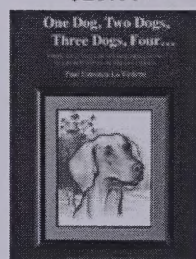
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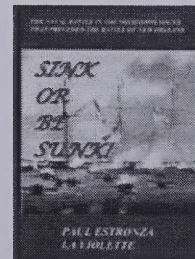
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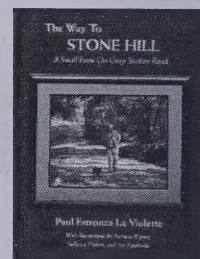
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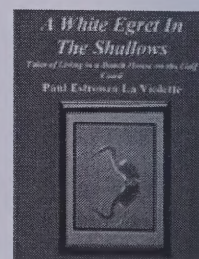
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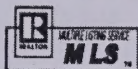
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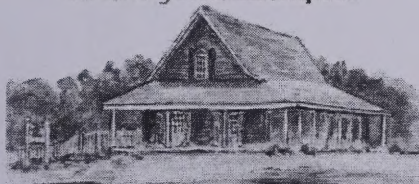


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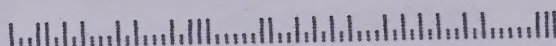
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